

**Doctor, we need your organs! And your help!**

This special issue of the *Journal* is devoted to organ transplantation in Hawaii and is dedicated to **Livingston Wong MD**, Livy, the father of Hawaii organ transplantation, and **Alan Cheung MD** have brought to the *Journal* a very special series of manuscripts. They have reviewed the past, updated the present, and will stimulate the reader to the future potential of organ transplantation.

It was in 1963 when your editor, then a dermatology resident at New York University, first became interested in organ transplantation. At that time, we were doing only preliminary work with tissue culture of basal cell cancers.<sup>1</sup>

Then in 1969, while at the Honolulu Medical Group, The Research and Education Foundation and the University of Hawaii School of Medicine sponsored Hawaii's first Organ Transplantation Symposium. We invited some of the most renowned authorities to speak at our symposium. They included: **Thomas Starzl MD**, **Robert A. Good MD**, **Irving Page MD**, and **David Rubsamen MD, LLB**. Local speakers included **Arnold Siemsen MD**, **Richard Mamiya MD**, and **Richard Kekuni Blaisdell MD**.

The Editorial Board hopes this special issue of the *Journal* will promote more interest in organ donations. Call the Hawaii Lions Eye Bank or the Makana Foundation at 536-7416 and the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii at 599-7630 for brochures and information for distribution to your patients. We need those organs!

**References**

- 1 Walker DG, Goldstein N, Kopf AW, Wright JC. Epithelial outgrowth from tissue culture of basal cell epitheliomas. *J Invest Derm*. 1994;42:435-441.

*Mahalo*  
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**Organ transplantation overview**

This year marks the 25th anniversary of organ transplantation in Hawaii.

In August 1969, St. Francis Medical Center in Honolulu performed the state's first kidney transplant. From the beginnings of transplantation here, which has evolved to include heart, bone marrow, liver and combined pancreas and kidney transplants, the people of Hawaii now are provided the latest services in transplantation.

This special issue on organ transplantation is designed to educate and inform the practitioners of Hawaii about what's happening in transplantation.

As in any major clinical endeavor, organ transplantation requires the participation and commitment of numerous people working as a team. They include:

1. A team of nurse coordinators, social workers, and financial advisors aiding the physicians in evaluating potential candidates, caring for post-operative patients, and following patients for the rest of their lives. This is essential for recognition of potential complications, such as rejection and infection.
  2. Laboratory staff and facilities performing: (a) HLA tissue typing capability and association with the ASHI; (b) specific immunological and drug monitoring; (c) anatomic/histologic pathology to identify and grade rejection and graft-versus-host disease.
  3. Transplant organ procurement agency for evaluating potential cadaveric donors, obtaining appropriate consent from family members in a sensitive manner, and overseeing the entire process of organ donation. They see to it that organs are procured and allocated according to the bylaws of the national organization, UNOS (United Network for Organ Sharing).
  4. Operating room staff capable of procuring organs (liver, heart, pancreas, and kidneys) and tissue (bone, bone marrow, cornea, tendons) for transplantation. This team must properly perfuse the organs, place them in preservation solution, store them for varying lengths of time, and prepare them for transportation.
  5. A team of qualified surgeons to implant these organs.
  6. A medical center with specialized patient rooms and trained, dedicated personnel to care for these challenging patients.
  7. A team of physicians, including surgeons, internists, and specialists, capable of monitoring immunosuppressive medications and recognizing rejection and other potential complications.
  8. Nurse transplant coordinators instrumental in data collection. Transplant patients must be monitored and statistics must be submitted to national and international registries. This allows our program to be measured against other programs. Our data also will contribute to both the U.S. and world experiences for each type of transplant. This will lead to a better understanding of every aspect of transplantation and ultimately improved patient care. Submission of data is often tedious and burdensome for transplant coordinators, but this is absolutely essential.
- We thank all of the above individuals and institutions for their support and team work. We would also like to thank all of the contributing authors for their fine work, and Dr Norman Goldstein for this opportunity to share our excitement and experience on organ transplantation in Hawaii.

**Livingston M.F. Wong MD**  
**Alan H.S. Cheung MD**